

21. MARINE BIVALVE MOLLUSC *SOLENOMYA  
MEDITERRANEA* LAMARCK FROM COCHIN,  
SOUTH INDIA: A NEW RECORD

(With one plate)

In April 1961, I received a specimen of a bivalve mollusc (without the soft parts, but with both valves of the shell intact) for identification from Mr. P. Dinamani, Research Officer, Oceanographic Laboratory, University of Kerala, Cochin, collected from near Cochin, on the west coast.

On careful examination, I found that the specimen belonged to a species of bivalve, *Solenomya mediterranea* Lamarck, which has not hitherto been recorded from the coasts of India. One characteristic feature of the genus *Solenomya* is that the shell possesses a strong, shiny brown periostracum which extends beyond the edges of the valves and this feature was very well marked in the specimen I examined.

The shell is transversely elongated, somewhat rectangular, with more or less obtusely rounded front and hind margins, but the posterior side is rather narrowed and obliquely truncated. The hinge is without teeth, and the ligament partly internal. The cardinal callus is narrow, curved, and obliquely triangular, and the ligamentary area behind the callus is also triangular and linearly produced below. The shell is covered with a fairly thick, glossy, dark brown, horny periostracum extending beyond the margins of the valves. The surface of the shell bears distinct radial striations.

The specific name *mediterranea* indicates that the original specimens on which this species was based were recorded from the Mediterranean (which is the type locality mentioned by Reeve for this species, in his CONCHOLOGIA ICONICA, Vol. XX, Species 2), but this does not imply that specimens of this species are not likely to be found in other localities.

This is an interesting and unique record, for, as far as I know, this species has not been recorded from Indian waters earlier. If any of our readers happens to collect any further specimens of this species on Indian shores, we shall be glad to have a few for the Madras Museum collection in which it is not at present represented.

MADRAS GOVERNMENT MUSEUM,  
MADRAS,  
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S. T. SATYAMURTI  
Superintendent